

road surface, and burners 56 or other source of heat, or jets of overheated air or of other gases for burning away or otherwise eliminating any residual moisture. Such heating means may be further advantageously made use of for suitable pre-heating of the road surface to improve the adhesiveness of the strip material thereon.

While the invention has been described and shown but in few forms of embodiment thereof, it is obvious that the invention itself is not limited to the very details shown, and that several structural modifications and variations might be made thereto, according to the art.

It is moreover believed to be evident that the present invention includes a plurality of advantageous features, and it will be understood that each of the new features described and any combination thereof may find useful application in other constructions of road-marking strip material laying down apparatuses differing from the ones described.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of this invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of this invention and, therefore such adaptations should and are intended to be comprehended within the spirit, meaning and range of equivalence of the invention, as defined in and by the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention and the mode of carrying out thereof, what is claimed as new and desired to have protected by Letters Patent is:

1. In a road marking apparatus for adhesively applying strip sections of strip material in longitudinally spaced relationship from a vehicle travelling at a given speed along a road surface onto said road surface, in combination, combined feeding and pressing means for applying strip sections under pressure to said road surface; auxiliary feeding means for feeding strip sections in one direction onto said combined feeding and pressing means; cutting means spaced in said one direction ahead of said auxiliary feeding means for cutting strip sections from a continuous strip material so as to leave a free end on said continuous strip material; gripping means for gripping said continuous strip material in the region of the free end thereof and for moving the latter through and past said cutting means into said auxiliary feeding means; and operating means for operating said cutting and gripping means in predetermined sequence and for driving said combined feeding and pressing means as well as said auxiliary feeding means with predetermined speed, whereby sections of strip material of predetermined lengths will be applied with predetermined spacing onto the road surface.

2. In a road marking apparatus for adhesively applying strip sections of strip material in longitudinally spaced relationship from a vehicle travelling at a given speed along a road surface onto said road surface, in combination, combined feeding and pressing means for applying strip sections under pressure to said road surface; auxiliary feeding means for feeding strip sections in one direction onto said combined feeding and pressing means; cutting means spaced in said one direction ahead of said auxiliary feeding means for cutting strip sections from a continuous strip material so as to leave a free end on said continuous strip material; gripping means for gripping said continuous strip material in the region of the free end thereof and for moving the latter through and past said cutting means into said auxiliary feeding means; and operating means driven with a speed proportionate to the speed of said vehicle for operating said cutting and gripping means in predetermined sequence and for driving said combined feeding and pressing means as well as said auxiliary feeding means with predetermined speed, whereby sections of strip material of predetermined lengths will be applied with predetermined spacing onto the road surface.

3. In a road marking apparatus for adhesively apply-

ing strip sections of strip material in longitudinally spaced relationship from a vehicle travelling at a given speed along a road surface onto said road surface, in combination, combined feeding and pressing means for applying strip sections under pressure to said road surface; auxiliary feeding means for feeding strip sections in one direction onto said combined feeding and pressing means; reciprocating cutting means spaced in said one direction ahead of said auxiliary feeding means for cutting strip sections from a continuous strip material so as to leave a free end on said continuous strip material, said reciprocating cutting means being movable between an inactive position permitting feeding of strip material past said cutting means without cutting and an active position in which strip material fed past said cutting means is cut; reciprocating gripping means for gripping said continuous strip material in the region of the free end thereof and for moving the latter through and past said cutting means into said auxiliary feeding means, said reciprocating gripping means being movable between a rest position spaced in said one direction ahead of said cutting means to an advanced position adjacent said auxiliary feeding means and between a closed position gripping said continuous strip material in the region of its free end and a releasing position; and operating means for reciprocating said cutting means in predetermined sequence between said inactive position and said active position thereof while moving said gripping means in closed position from its rest position to its advanced position and in open position from its advanced position back to its rest position while said cutting means is in said inactive position and for driving said combined feeding and pressing means as well as said auxiliary feeding means with predetermined speed, whereby sections of strip material of predetermined lengths will be applied with predetermined spacing onto the road surface.

4. In a road marking apparatus for adhesively applying strip sections of strip material in longitudinally spaced relationship from a vehicle travelling at a given speed along a road surface onto said road surface, in combination, combined feeding and pressing means for applying strip sections under pressure to said road surface; auxiliary feeding means for feeding strip sections in one direction onto said combined feeding and pressing means; cutting means spaced in said one direction ahead of said auxiliary feeding means for cutting strip sections from a continuous strip material so as to leave a free end on said continuous strip material, said cutting means comprising a pair of oppositely arranged cutting knives movable towards and away from each other between an inactive position in which said cutting knives are spaced from each other permitting feeding of strip material between and past said cutting knives and an active position in which strip material fed between said cutting knives is cut; gripping means for gripping said continuous strip material in the region of the free end thereof and for moving the latter through and past said cutting means into said auxiliary feeding means, said gripping means comprising a pair of jaws respectively located on opposite sides of said strip material and being movable between a rest position spaced in said one direction ahead of said cutting means to an advanced position adjacent said auxiliary feeding means and said jaws being movable during the movement thereof from said rest position to said advanced position to a closed position gripping said strip material and during the movement thereof from said advanced to said rest position to a releasing position releasing said strip material, said reciprocating cutting knives being in the inactive position thereof spaced from each other far enough to permit said jaws to pass at least in part between and past said open knives; and operating means for operating said cutting and gripping means in predetermined sequence and for